

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic still camera comprising:
a plurality of detection means provided
respectively at different positions, for detecting
contact or approach of a hand to make an image pickup
operation;

mode setup means for setting a stand-by mode in
which a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is
supplied to an image pickup device, capable of
commencing an image pickup operation immediately in
response to a release instruction; and

image pickup control means for executing a
preliminary operation for image pickup if the stand-by
mode is set by the mode setup means and all the
plurality of detection means detect the contact or
approach.

2. A camera according to claim 1, further
comprising mode holding means using a non-volatile
memory, for holding a setup state of the stand-by mode
set by the mode setup means even during a power-off
period.

3. A camera according to claim 1, further
comprising mode release means for releasing the stand-
by mode when the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup
means and a period in which at least one of the
plurality of detection means does not detect the
contact or approach reaches a predetermined time.

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4. A camera according to claim 1, further comprising operation control means for rendering a part of the plurality of detection means operational, when the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup means and a period in which at least one of the plurality of detection means does not detect the contact or approach reaches a predetermined time.

5. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection means are provided at least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera body.

6. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the preliminary operation includes at least automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white balance adjustment.

7. An electronic still camera comprising:
detection means provided near a release button, for detecting contact or approach of a hand to make an image pickup operation;

a main power switch for switching on and off a power source of the camera; and

image pickup control means for executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if the power switch is set on and the detection means detects the contact or approach.

8. A camera according to claim 1 ~~or 7~~, wherein the preliminary operation includes at least electric conducting to an image pickup device.

9. An electronic still camera comprising:
a plurality of detection means provided
respectively at different positions, for detecting
contact or approach of a hand;

mode setup means for setting a stand-by mode in
which a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is
supplied to an image pickup device, capable of
commencing an image pickup operation immediately in
response to a release instruction; and

image pickup control means for executing a
preliminary operation for image pickup if the stand-by
mode is set by the mode setup means and at least one of
the plurality of detection means detects the contact or
approach.

10. A method for controlling an electronic still
camera, comprising steps of:

detecting contact or approach of a hand to a
camera body, by a plurality of detection means provided
respectively at different positions;

bringing an image pickup system including at least
an image pickup device into a stand-by state in which
the image pickup system commences an image pickup
operation immediately in response to a release
instruction; and

executing a preliminary operation for image pickup
if the image pickup system is in the stand-by state and
at least one of the plurality of detection means

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detects the contact or approach of the hand.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the preliminary operation is executed if all the plurality of detection means detect the contact or approach.

5 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein in the step of detecting, if the image pickup system is in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality of detection means detects the contact or approach of the hand to make an image pickup operation, another part of the
10 plurality of detection means starts a detection operation.

13. A method according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of detection means are provided at least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera body.

15 14. A method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of writing a setup of the image pickup system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile memory if an input for turning off a power source is given.

20 15. A method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of releasing the stand-by state when the stand-by state is set and a period in which at least one of the plurality of detection means does not detect the contact or approach of the hand reaches a
25 predetermined time.

Gibson 16. A method according to claim 10, wherein the preliminary operation includes at least automatic

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exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white balance adjustment.

17. A method according to claim 10, wherein the preliminary operation includes at least electric
5 conducting to the image pickup device.

18. A method for controlling an electronic still camera, comprising steps of:

detecting contact or approach of a hand by detection means provided near a release button;

10 switching on and off a main power source of the camera; and

executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if the main power source is on and the plurality of detection means detects the contact or approach of the
15 hand.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the preliminary operation includes at least electric
conducting to an image pickup device.

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